

CLAIMS

1. A shaping process for making pellets of a thermoplastic extrudable resin composition comprising a thermoplastic polymer, plasticiser and optionally further additives, the plasticiser comprising a component which is solid at room temperature, wherein the process is run at a temperature above the melting point of the plasticiser and below the melting / plastification temperature of the thermoplastic polymer.
2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the process comprises pressing, extrusion, calendering and / or compaction.
3. A process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the plasticiser is present in the composition in at least 5%, more preferably 10%, most preferably 15%.
4. A process according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the shaping process comprises extrusion.
5. A process according to claim 4, wherein the temperature of the material within the extruder does not exceed a temperature which is 10°C, more preferably 15°C, more preferably 30°C and most preferably 45°C below the melting / plastification temperature of the thermoplastic polymer at any time.
6. A process according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the temperature of material within the extruder is at least 40°C, more preferably at least 45°C, and most preferably at least 50°C.

7. A process according to any one of the proceeding claims, wherein the particle size of the raw materials used is below 2000 μ m, more preferably below 1200 μ m, more preferably below 400 μ m and most preferably about 200 μ m.

8. A process according to according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the plasticiser comprises a carbohydrate.

9. A process according to claim 8, wherein the carbohydrate is selected from the group comprising gluconic acids, amino sugars, sugar alcohols such as sorbitol, glucitol, mannitol, galactitol, dulcitol, xylitol, erythritol, isomaltutose and isomalt.

10. A process according to claim 8, wherein the carbohydrate is selected from the group comprising sorbitol, glucitol, mannitol, galactitol, dulcitol, xylitol, erythritol, isomaltutose and isomalt.

11. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is water-soluble / water dispersible.

12. A process according to claims 11, wherein the thermoplastic polymer comprises PVOH or a derivative thereof.

13. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the thermoplastic polymer comprises poly(vinylpyrrolidone), poly(acrylic acid), poly(maleic acid), a cellulose derivative (such as a cellulose ether /

hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose), poly(glycolide), poly(glycolic acid), poly(lactides), poly (lactic acid) and copolymers thereof.

5 14. A process according to claim 12 or 13, wherein the pellets are for use in injection moulding processes.

15. A process according to any one of claims 12 to 14,
wherein the injection moulding process is used for the manu-
10 facture of water soluble pouches intended to contain a detergent formulation for use in an automatic washing machine or in an automatic dishwasher.